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MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director

Attached is Lehman's negative response to your question about using two memoranda on the situation in Eastern Europe as the basis for our first "Alerting Memorandum". Lehman also reports on the status of the proposal to initiate a procedure for this kind of memorandum.

Ed Proctor
Ed Proctor

23 August 1974
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
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OFFICE OF T. DD/I
Approved For Release 2005/08/24 : CIA-RDP80B01495R0001-4

DATE: 22 August 1974

TO: Mr. Proctor

FROM:

SUBJECT: D/OCI Response to DCI Query on an Intelligence Alert Memo

REMARKS:

Attached is Lehman's response to the DCI's query on whether an "alerting memo" should be issued on two East European memoranda published recently.

He recommends against issuing an alerting memo because problems in Eastern Europe, with the possible exception of Romania, are too diffuse and our views are too speculative at this time.

Lehman points out that the DCI asked him to draft a letter to USIB proposing the alerting memo. The letter would be discussed at USIB and then the alerting memo would be established as a weapon in the Community's arsenal. The draft letter will be coming through you to the DCI by early next week.

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21 August 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : DCI Query Attached

1. The DCI asked you whether the two East European memoranda issued recently should be the subject of our first "Alerting Memorandum." I would recommend against because, in my view at least, such a memorandum should be directed to WSAG as a matter of some urgency. The problems in Eastern Europe, with the possible exception of Romania, seem to me too diffuse and our views about them too speculative to engage WSAG at this point.

2. Romanian-Soviet relations are another matter. I believe, however, that it would debase the currency if we were to issue an Alerting Memorandum on Romania before we had received much stronger suggestions that the Soviets were reaching the end of their patience. If a memorandum were justified on Romania it would probably be equally justified on 30 or 40 other situations around the globe. We will not achieve the desired impact by crying wolf or publishing laundry lists.

3. Procedurally speaking, the DCI has asked me to draft a letter to the USIB principals proposing the Alerting Memorandum. The idea would be to discuss this letter at USIB and then to establish the Alerting Memorandum as a weapon in the Community's arsenal. My draft is out for coordination with Carver and [] I hope to hear from them tomorrow and to disseminate the draft through you to the DCI by early next week. Let us not run ahead of ourselves: I am not at all sure yet that we and the DCI fully agree on the nature and purpose of an Alerting Memorandum.

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RICHARD LEHMAN
Director of Current Intelligence

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Attachment: a/s